

**Second Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee  
of the GF-TADs for Europe**

OIE Headquarters, Paris, 18 December 2007

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Recommendation 1

**Support to Regional Animal Health Activities under the regional GF-TADs (Global Framework  
for the control of Transboundary Animal Diseases) Mechanism**

**CONSIDERING**

The impact of transboundary animal disease crises on public health, the agricultural sector, trade and the livelihoods of small breeders particularly in certain areas of Europe,

The necessity for animal disease prevention and control to be supported by Veterinary Services that comply with OIE international standards and in a broader sense by effective systems of animal health,

The necessity to develop public-private partnerships in the prevention and control of animal diseases,

The need for countries to sustain their motivation in convincing Governments and donors to provide financial and technical assistance for the prevention and control of animal diseases,

The frequent emergence and re-emergence of serious international animal health crises,

The support to be provided to initiatives, structures and mechanisms at international level such as the Global Early Warning System (GLEWS) Platform managed by the FAO, OIE and the WHO and the FAO-OIE Crisis Management Centre/Animal Health (CMC-AH),

The support to be provided by the international community and the European Community for the prevention and control of animal diseases including zoonoses to many OIE Member Countries,

The importance of regional networks as tools to improve surveillance, early detection and timely diagnosis, transparency of animal disease information, rapid response to outbreaks as well as the potential use of the network approach in providing data for studies related to socio-economic surveys applicable to livestock systems,

The importance of integrating in the global context the control of relevant animal health events as well as public health approaches and programmes regarding the control of zoonoses, especially the so-called neglected zoonoses (e.g. echinococcus, trypanosomiasis etc),

The role of livestock trade notably that carried out illegally and the importance of small village farms in the epidemiology of important transboundary animal diseases,

The importance of systems of compensation schemes /providing incentives within the framework of compulsory sanitary stamping out of animals in order to optimise efficacy in national zoo-sanitary situations,

The necessity to achieve the goal of the Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme (GREP) to declare the world free from rinderpest in the near future,

The importance of climate change and globalisation of trade and movement of people on the emergence, re-emergence and spread of diseases,

The re-emergence of African swine fever and the emergence of bluetongue in certain regions and the negative impact of these diseases on animal production as well as on regional and global trade of livestock and livestock products,

The importance of animal health on food safety, food security and animal welfare,

## **THE SECOND MEETING OF THE REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE GF-TADS FOR EUROPE**

### **RECOMMENDS THAT:**

1. Veterinary Services (VS) be reinforced preferably after an evaluation using the OIE Tool for the performance of Veterinary Services (OIE- PVS Tool) which would also investigate the relationship between the Veterinary Services and veterinary teaching establishments, livestock associations and plants processing animal products. The evaluation will be followed if necessary, by a strengthening of the Veterinary services with the support of EC and FAO, identification of investment projects and training programmes to ensure that VS are brought in conformity with OIE standards;
2. Veterinary schools and other veterinary training institutions review the curriculum for veterinary training and whenever appropriate, progressively adapt the curriculum to comply with the requirements laid down in Council Directive 2005/36/EC. Veterinary teaching establishments should also offer appropriate postgraduate training programmes directed at continuous professional development for Veterinary Services. The EC should provide support whenever necessary to improve veterinary education;
3. International organisations such as OIE and FAO as well as donors including the EC pursue and reinforce their support to programmes aimed at the prevention and control of major animal diseases;
4. Countries continue their commitment towards projects regarding the prevention and control of animal diseases and ensure that they are implemented according to agreed objectives and time frames set out;
5. The fundamental basis of disease surveillance be addressed on an holistic approach taking into account the social, economic and cultural context as well as the global changes taking place;
6. Bluetongue, African swine fever and highly pathogenic avian influenza be the subject of preparations of emergency plans in all Member Countries of the Regional Commission for Europe and that studies on preventive and control measures be intensified;
7. OIE Reference Laboratories of the region engage in twinning arrangements under the aegis of the OIE and FAO networks with other laboratories in order to provide and share expertise in the diagnosis and control of TADs. FAO and EC will provide support to these initiatives;

8. The OIE and FAO and Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe continue their advocacy role in the general prevention and control of animal diseases particularly HPAI in line with the momentum gathered during the recent ministerial meeting on avian influenza held recently in New Delhi, India;
9. The EUFMD participate fully in the forthcoming international conference on FMD in 2008 and that the OIE and FAO continue their coordinating role in the global control of the disease;
10. Member Countries and the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for Europe participate actively in the Conference on bluetongue vaccination to be organised soon by the European Commission;
11. The mechanisms and structures for the coordination of and support to animal disease control at international level such as the GLEWS and the CMC-AH reinforce their assistance to Member Countries;
12. Member Countries review the management and level of their animal health budgets in order to ensure a timely, fair and sustainable compensation to farmers who lose their animals as part of disease control measures resulting from stamping out policies;
13. The role of trade especially that carried out illegally on the epidemiology of diseases be better evaluated in compliance with OIE standards;
14. Veterinary Services endeavour to carry out disease surveillance in all their national territories and strengthen identification and traceability capabilities and capacities for bovines, ovines, caprines and porcines in order to establish a functional and effective traceability system for the food chain of animal origin;
15. The public-private partnership develop further in order to create systems of animal health and food safety in which livestock breeders, traders and other stakeholders are more closely involved;
16. Member Countries review and monitor the upgrading of food processing plants especially those dealing with meat, milk and fish regarding the structure, hygiene and other practices including the application of Hazard Analysis for the Control of Critical Points (HACCP). Consideration should also be given to the enforcement of the integrated residue control plan regarding feeds, live animals, pesticides and pharmaceuticals as well as the rendering system for by-products in accordance with international standards;
17. Member Countries review their zoonoses control plan including their strategy on rabies control involving oral vaccination of foxes and stray dog sanitary measures and control;
18. Member Countries review their legislation on registration and harmonisation of veterinary pharmaceutical and biological products (including products derived from genetically modified organisms) and ensure their compliance;
19. Member Countries review the organisation and functions of Veterinary Statutory Bodies including the involvement of the private veterinary sector;
20. Member Countries review the system of veterinary border control regarding importation and transit of animals and animal products including procedures and facilities as well as sampling for laboratory testing;

21. Member Countries review their approach on animal welfare standards with particular focus on transport, husbandry conditions and stunning prior to slaughter;
22. Member Countries pursue their commitment towards the Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme (GREP) in their efforts to seek the global free rinderpest status in accordance with the new OIE Pathway with the support of the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe;
23. The WHO participate actively in GF-TADS Regional steering Committee meetings;
24. The FAO and OIE as well as WHO should continue their active support in the prevention of transmission of animal infections to humans by combating pathogens at their animal source and thus avoid possible risks of pandemics;
25. The Advisory Committee of the OIE Animal Health and Welfare Fund be used in conjunction with FAO, WHO and the World Trade Organization (WTO) to define and disseminate communication strategies and messages relevant to sound governance of Veterinary services and the perception of crises of animal origin particularly in the field of risk management communication.

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Recommendation 2

**Support to the Control of African swine fever and Classical swine fever under the Regional GF-TADs (Global Framework for the control of Transboundary Animal Diseases) Mechanism.**

**CONSIDERING THAT**

African swine fever (ASF) and classical swine fever (CSF) outbreaks have been reported in several countries of Eastern Europe and the Balkan region respectively and are likely to spread to other countries if appropriate steps are not taken,

There is a need for neighbouring countries to develop and implement appropriate surveillance and early warning programmes for an early detection and rapid response against these diseases and this can only be accomplished by sound governance of Veterinary Services along with appropriate investments,

ASF and CSF have significant impacts on national pig production and regional and global trade of animals and animal products,

There is currently an urgent need for countries at risk to mobilise necessary resources to counteract the diseases using veterinary inspection at borders (ports, airports, roads)

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**RECOMMENDS THAT:**

1. Veterinary Services (VS) of countries especially those that are affected by ASF such as Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia be urgently reinforced following an evaluation using the OIE Tool for the performance of Veterinary Services (OIE- PVS Tool). The evaluation should be followed by a gap analysis to redress weaknesses and other deficiencies of VS to bring them in line with OIE international standards;
2. The reports of the gap analysis be developed by OIE in collaboration with FAO and EC and submitted for financial support from international donors including the European Commission;
3. Funds made available to countries affected by ASF be also utilised whenever appropriate, to control foot and mouth disease (FMD);
4. Control measures directed at the control of CSF in the Balkan region be overseen by the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations for Europe located respectively in Sofia, Bulgaria and Brussels, Belgium, in permanent collaboration with FAO;
5. OIE reiterate its request to its Reference Laboratories to provide appropriate guidance to countries at risk in the surveillance and diagnosis of ASF, CSF and FMD;

6. Governments of East European countries at the highest political level be made deeply aware of the urgent necessity to provide adequate resources to their Veterinary services particularly to effect veterinary border controls and also to provide assistance to farmers including fair and timely compensations for stamping out and farm rehabilitation in case of epizootics;
7. OIE Member Countries ensure compliance with their obligations on animal disease reporting by promptly reporting all outbreaks of ASF and CSF to the OIE for continuous incorporation in the World Animal Health Information Database (WAHID);
8. The Director General of the OIE address a letter to sensitise relevant Ministers of concerned countries on the importance of controlling those diseases in order to prevent their spread to other European countries.